



THE JUDY BLACK MEMORIAL PARK AND GARDENS

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear friends of the park,

April, 2021

I write this letter as the plants, bulbs and trees of the park are going through their miraculous and yet predictable annual spring transformation --- reminding me of the delicate balance between two of life's themes, *change* and *continuity*.

We, as the custodians of the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens, and you as our community, have become very familiar with *change* over the past pandemic year. We have gathered virtually, not in person. We wore masks and social distanced at last summer's farmers market at the park. We enjoyed Movies@thepark in our cars, rather than in our lawn chairs. We admired art exhibits in small numbers only or even through the windows - rather than at artists' receptions. We made new acquaintances via "Meet Your Neighbor" on social media, rather than on the lawn. We have reinvented ourselves in the face of a new reality.

And yet we are comforted by *continuity*. We look forward to another opening day of the farmers market in late May this year, when we will again see our neighbors and favorite farmers—and some new ones too. We again anticipate the coming season's outdoor movies, musical events, art shows and other surprises from the park's program committee. We look forward to seeing each other at the park – and at our annual July FUNraiser!

On a more personal note, I, too, am embracing change. As an original founder of the park, a board member since our purchase of the property in 2013, and board president since 2017, I am stepping down as president this spring. It's time for new leadership and fresh ideas. While I am relinquishing the title of president, my commitment to the park remains strong. I continue to feel deep gratitude to those generous donors who make the park possible and to the board who entrusted me with this responsibility. It has been a labor of love.

While I am handing off the president's reins, the park enjoys continuity as well – many longstanding board members and, of course, our dedicated and talented executive director, Laura Neminski. And finally, to assure that the park will be there for the community in perpetuity, we will be launching an endowment campaign over the coming months. Stay tuned.



Enjoy our 2020 annual report -- and the park!

Warmly,

Denise D. Trevenen

President, Washington Park Foundation

October 22, 1962 – May 3, 2021

*We pay tribute to Denise, our board president,
a founder of the park and our beloved friend for her
vision, dedication and indomitable spirit.*



THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD

by Laura Neminski, Executive Director

We knew 2020 would be a year like no other! Faced with the challenges of operating the Judy Black Park during the pandemic, we quickly recognized that in order to fulfill our mission — to provide a gathering place for the town – we had to do two very new things: **PIVOT** the types of gatherings we could create and **PARTNER** with different community organizations and individuals throughout the year to continue to create connections while most of us sheltered in place.

In the Spring of 2020, we **pivoted** to a more digital-focused delivery of our programs, from "Meet Your Neighbor" to virtual art shows. Generous neighbors loaned beautiful and whimsical sculptures for visitors to enjoy through our large windows. As soon as Covid-19 guidelines allowed, we opened our doors to small groups to admire an exhibit of local artists in "Four Walls: Four Artists." Despite the challenges, we still launched our Farmers Market in early June, providing safe, weekly opportunities for us to greet vendors and neighbors (all behind masks, of course!) and fill our fridges and cupboards. Unable to invite the community inside for the holidays, we offered an outdoor holiday market with Christmas trees and Hanukkah lights, decorated the garage doors with a winter wonderland theme, and took part in our town's first Drive-Thru Holiday in the Depot celebration.

We **partnered** during the summer with The Town of Washington and the Gunn Memorial Library to hold drive-in movies at the River Walk Pavilion. Our generous movie sponsors, along with voluntary donations from movie-goers, helped cover our costs. We partnered with local gallery owner Kathy McCarver Root of KMR Arts to bring to the park world-class artists like Caio Fonseca. The Town came through again, along with Washington's own talented singer/actor Audrey Heffernan Meyer and her band, so that we could hold our annual FUNraiser at the Pavilion and connect with our community on a beautiful summer evening!

Just like "The Little Engine That Could," our deeply-held belief in the importance of community and place helped us **pivot** to find a path forward in 2020. In **partnership** with individuals, businesses, and our local government, we created some sense of normalcy in our little "town square" during a time that was anything but normal.

WITH THANKS TO OUR 2020 DONORS

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Golden Rain Trees

\$500 to \$999

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In honor of Denise Trevenen
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\$1,000 to \$1,499

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Carolyn Setlow and Andrew Shapiro
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WELCOME NEW MARKET MASTER RAE MOORE



Rae Moore officially took over the reins of our Farmers Market this year from her father, Justin, and what a job she did! Covid-19 posed new challenges -- with new rules for vendors and shoppers alike -- to ensure a safe shopping environment. No task was ever too small or too big for Rae.

In addition to managing her own stand, Rae was instrumental in recruiting new vendors to our market, to ensure a wide variety of locally-grown fresh produce, and locally-made prepared foods and products. We also thank Rae for sharing new ideas throughout the year to enhance the market.

All this hard work and effort were rewarded last fall when Litchfield Magazine readers voted us "Best Farmers Market" in the county as part of the magazine's annual Reader's Choice Awards! The honor is a reflection of Rae's leadership and enthusiasm, along with The Judy Black Park committee members and volunteers who hosted the market each week, directed foot traffic and ensured everyone had a safe, efficient and wonderful experience. Thank you to all! We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the 2021 season, which is scheduled to open on May 22nd!

VOLUNTEERS

Hezzy Benson | Katharine Benson | Vincent Casey | Jeffrey Coploff | Charles DeVos
Debbie Doorfy | Laura Driscoll | Robert Duke | Lili Dyer | Andrew Flatt | Matthew Frater | Jo Gallagher | Barbara Gold | Lela Ilyinsky | Richard Lorenti | Kathy McCarver
Root/KMR Arts | Kori Meissner | Mark Mennin | David Metzger | Kristen Metzger
Madeleine Metzger | Justin Moore | Rae Moore, Market Master | Holden Neminski
Jackson Neminski | Perry Neminski | William Post | Amelia Post | Camila Rico | Sharon Ruchman | Cherry Thurlow | Andrew Trevenen | John Trevenen | Sydney Trevenen
Sean Woodward/WOODCO | Donna Wright

SPONSORS

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GIFTS-IN-KIND

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Pels Matthews | The Matthews Group | The Pantry | Camila Rico | Sawing High Climbers
The Town of Washington | Marc Wager/Roxbury Station | Washington Depot Production
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Featured Artwork: "Big Smile", by Vanessa German

"During the winter, the Judy Black Park lit up the center of Washington Depot with bright lights and happy sculptures. 'Sculpture @ the Park' included three dynamic pieces on loan from the private collection of local Washington residents."



Photo Credit: Vi Owens



Dogwoods

\$1,500 to \$2,499

Marsha and Franklin Berger
Tamara and Brad Bernstein
In honor of Denise Trevenen
Kirsten Feldman and Hugh Frater
In honor of Denise Trevenen
Deborah and Daniel Glass
Gloria and Martin Greenstein
Peter Houldin
Kathryn and John Kehoe
Richard Schlosberg
Jenniffer and Douglas Urquhart
Barbara Spakowski Wodtke and Peter Wodtke

River Birches

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Nicole Alger and Zachary Karabell
Vincent Casey and Robert Duke
In memory of Jeannette P. and
Katherine C. Duke
J. Wilson Henley and Bruce Glickman
Stacey and Pels Matthews
Audrey and Danny Meyer
In honor of Denise Trevenen
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Denise and John Trevenen

Linden Trees

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Chrissy Armstrong and Ben Nickoll
Sandra Breakstone and Ronald Garfunkel
Margaret Ferguson and Daniel Sherr
Susan and Murray Haber

White Oaks

\$10,000 and up

Black Family Foundation
Peter J. Cooke

The above reflects all donations received between January 1 and December 31, 2020. We have made every effort to present correct information and we apologize for any errors. Please inform us of an inaccuracies or misspellings.



THE JUDY BLACK MEMORIAL PARK AND GARDENS

WASHINGTON PARK FOUNDATION • ONE GREEN HILL RD.
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“I’m so thankful for The Judy Black Park. The obvious beauty that the park brings to Washington Depot is breathtaking and a joy to see in every season. The programming that has been provided brings a vitality and energy that is palpable. As a small business owner, I feel the very real effects of all the people it brings to the Depot. When the Farmer’s Market is open, it’s as if a light switch is turned on....The engaging programming has a marvelous effect on the mood of the town, especially during these difficult times.”

– **Liz Page, Five Janes**

“I support the Judy Black Park because it is the anchor of all community for me in the Depot and gives me and the town a feeling of a cultural so-called “town square”. The town is pulled together there - the farmer’s market, art exhibits and educational offerings are very special and important to me. Not to forget music entertainment. The physical look and feel make me happy.”

– **Barbara Gold**

“(The Judy Black Park) is an important resource for our community. It is so nice to have a beautiful meeting place for our community in the center of town, with interesting events and art, and fresh local food. I remember when the space was just the old unused garage. Now it is beautiful...(It) promotes community and connection...a lovely space for events, indoor and out...the hub of our town.”

– **Jamie Spannake**

“(The Judy Black Park) acts as a great hub for community events in Washington...just keep up what you are doing! We have enjoyed sponsoring Movie Night and Holiday in the Depot, as they are great for the community and a lot of fun.”

– **Steven Cornell, National Iron Bank**

“As the visual center of the Depot, with a beautiful garden and stone sculpture, (The Judy Black Park) asks for support! It feels like a special gathering place. When there is an exhibit, a play or other invitational activities, it calls out to the town. So, the more activity, the better! The market is wonderful and the inside space, restful. The exhibits are always interesting! And your emails are always welcome! What a splendid launching... Bravo!”

– **Elizabeth MacDonald**

“(The Judy Black Park) has greatly improved the appearance of the Depot and is a wonderful community resource. It is a gathering place for people and has excellent programming. I love seeing early morning exercise classes there, outdoor movies, art shows and of course the farmer’s market.”

– **Barbara Kohn**

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for our annual

FUNraiser

JULY 25, 2021

date subject to change

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